

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined ("____") being added and the language that contains strikethrough ("—") being deleted:

1. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising:

providing for display a first instant messaging (IM) message of an IM session between a user and a contact;

calculating an elapsed time from the displaying of the first IM message;

providing for display whether a second IM message has been displayed within the elapsed time;

providing for display a first time indication, the first time indication being associated with the first IM message, the first time indication being displayed in response to determining that the second IM message has not been displayed within the elapsed time, the first time indication displaying a time that the first message was sent;

querying the user to determine whether to include a termination time indication for an IM log of the IM session, the termination time indication indicating a time the IM session terminated;

providing a status bar area within the IM chat window, the status bar area being distinct from the IM dialogue box; and

selectively providing for display a most-recently-displayed IM time in the status bar area, the most-recently-displayed IM time being associated with the most-recently-displayed IM message- message, such that when a new message is communicated, the most-recently-

displayed IM time is changed to reflect communication of the new message.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein displaying the first IM message comprises:

providing an IM dialogue box within an IM chat window; and

providing for display the first IM message within the IM dialogue box.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein displaying the first time indication comprises:

providing for display the first time indication in the IM dialogue box.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein displaying the first time indication comprises:

providing for display a first visual delineator after the first IM message, the first visual delineator having a time associated with the first IM message.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

providing for display a second IM message after the elapsed time;

providing for display a second time indication, the second time indication being associated with the second IM message, the second time indication being indicative of the elapsed time between the first IM message and the second IM message.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein providing for display the second time indication comprises:

providing for display a second visual delineator before the second IM message, the second visual delineator having a time associated with the second IM message.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein providing for display the second visual delineator comprises:

providing an IM dialogue box within an IM chat window; and

providing for display the second visual delineator in the IM dialogue box.

12. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium that stores a program, such that when executed by a computer, the computer performs at least the following:

~~provide~~ provide, by the computer, for display a first instant messaging (IM) message of an IM session between a user and a contact;

calculate an elapsed time from the computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display of the first IM message;

determine whether a second IM message has been displayed within the elapsed time;

provide for display a first time indication, the first time indication being associated with the first IM message, the first time indication being displayed in response to computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine that the second IM message has not been displayed within the elapsed time, the first time indication displaying a time that the first message was sent;

query the user to determine whether to include a termination time indication for an IM log of the IM session, the termination time indication indicating a time the IM session terminated;

provide a status bar area within the IM chat window, the status bar area being distinct from the IM dialogue box; and

selectively provide for display a most-recently-displayed IM time in the status bar area, the most-recently-displayed IM time being associated with the most-recently-displayed IM ~~message-~~ message, such that when a new message is communicated, the most-recently-displayed IM time is changed to reflect communication of the new message.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, further configured to perform at least the following:

provide an IM dialogue box within an IM chat window; and

provide for display the first IM message within the IM dialogue box.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21 further configured to perform at least the following:

provide for display the first time indication in the IM dialogue box.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, further configured to perform at least the following:

provide for display a first visual delineator after the first IM message, the first visual delineator having a time associated with the first IM message.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, further configured to perform at least the following:

provide for display a second IM message after the elapsed time;

provide for display a second time indication, the second time indication being associated with the second IM message, the second time indication being indicative of the elapsed time between the first IM message and the second IM message.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further configured to perform at least the following:

provide for display a second visual delineator before the second IM message, the second visual delineator having a time associated with the second IM message.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, further configured to perform at least the following:

provide an IM dialogue box within an IM chat window; and

provide for display the second visual delineator in the IM dialogue box.

27. – 37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a memory component that stores at least the following:

message-display logic configured to provide for display a first instant messaging (IM) message of an IM session between a user and a contact;

time-calculation logic configured to calculate an elapsed time from the display of the first IM message;

determination logic configured to determine whether a second IM message has been displayed within the elapsed time;

time-display logic configured to provide for display a first time indication, the first time indication being associated with the first IM message, the first time indication being displayed in response to determine that the second IM message has not been displayed within the elapsed time, the first time indication displaying the time the first message was sent;

query logic configured to query the user to determine whether to include a termination time indication for an IM log of the IM session, the termination time indication indicating a time the IM session terminated;

status bar logic configured to provide a status bar area within the IM chat window, the status bar area being distinct from the IM dialogue box; and

providing logic configured to selectively provide for display a most-recently-displayed IM time in the status bar area, the most-recently-displayed IM time being associated with the most-recently-displayed IM ~~message.~~ message, such that when a new message is communicated, the most-recently-displayed IM time is changed to reflect communication of the new message.

39. – 43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 5, wherein the termination time is displayed in the ~~status bar area~~: dialog box.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable of claim 20, wherein the termination time is displayed in the ~~status bar area~~: dialog box.

46. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, wherein the termination time is displayed in the ~~status bar area~~: dialog box.